

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SEPT 27 STRIKES, DEMONSTRATIONS CENTER IN GUIPUZCOA,
VIZCAYA; ARRESTS, INJURIES REPORTEDLY FEW

REF: MADRID 7383

1. THE SEPT 27 "DAY OF STRUGGLE" CALLED TO COMMEMORATE
THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXECUTION OF TWO ETA (AND
THREE FRAP) TERRORISTS HAD GREATEST EFFECT, NOT SURPRISINGLY,
IN THE BASQUE REGIONS OF GUIPUZCOA, VIZCAYA, AND TO LESSER
EXTENT NAVARRA. GUIPUZCOA AND GREATER BILBAO REGISTERED
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NEAR-TOTAL STRIKES WHILE DEMONSTRATIONS AND STREET INCIDENTS

OF VARYING SIZE AND INTENSITY WERE NOTED BOTH IN THE BASQUE AREA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF SPAIN, INCLUDING A MODEST DEMONSTRATION IN MADRID. THREE WOUNDED WERE REPORTED, ONE SHOT IN THE LEG BY A CIVIL GUARD CAPTAIN KNOCKED TO THE GROUND BY A GROUP, AND ANOTHER, IN MADRID, SHOT IN THE STOMACH BY A MEMBER OF A GROUP IDENTIFIED ONLY AS "ANTI-COMMANDO COMMANDOS" (MEANING EXTREME RIGHT). THE AMOUNT OF POLICE AND AMBULANCE ACTIVITY IN BILBAO, OUR CONSUL THERE TOLD US, SUGGESTS THERE MAY HAVE BEEN MORE, BUT SO FAR THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF DEATHS OR GRAVE INJURY. OFFICIALS REPORTED SOME THIRTY ARRESTS WERE MADE COUNTRY-WIDE, BUT THE NUMBER MAY BE HIGHER.

2. MEETING WITH PRESS REPS SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT, DGS DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ ROMAN NOTED THAT PRESS COVERAGE BEFOREHAND HAD HELPED FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE EVENT, SAID THE DAY HAD ONLY BEEN "ESPECIALLY VIOLENT, REALLY HARD, IN BIZCAYA, GUIPUZCOA, AND NAVARRA," AND PRAISED THE POLICE FOR THEIR RESTRAINT IN THE FACE OF PROVOCATION AND ASSAULT.

3. THE NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED AND THE NOTORIOUS LACK OF DISCIPLINE OF SOME OF THEM HAD GIVEN RISE TO FEARS THAT EVENTS ON THE 27TH, IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY, THROUGH EITHER MOMENTUM OR THE CREATION OF MARTYRS, WOULD SPILL OVER THE PAST THE PLANNED ONE-DAY SPAIN. AS OF THE MORNING OF THE 28TH, HOWEVER, THE SITUATION APPEARS TO HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL.
STABLER

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